

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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FOR CU/IVP/V

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TAGS: OEXC (GRATZER, HANS AND WALKER, WERNER)

SUBJECT: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE:

VOLUNTARY VISITORS HANS GRATZER AND WERNER WALKER

AMEMB VIENNA REQUESTS DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN PROGRAM FOR
VOLUNTARY VISITORS, HANS GRATZER AND WERNER WALKER, WHO WILL
BE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 3 - 4 MONTHS BEGINNING NOVEMBER
3, 1975.

GRATZER IS DIRECTOR OF THE WERKSTATT - THEATER AM KAERNTN-
ERTOR, WALKER IS THE COMPANY DRAMATIST (GER. DRAMATURG). WERKSTATT
IS THE BEST AVANT GARDE THEATER COMPANY IN AUSTRIA. GROUP
HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 3 YEARS AND HAS DONE 13 PRODUCTIONS.
CURRENTLY DOING CALIGULA FOR SRO AUDIENCES. GRATZER'S
EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED BY VIENNA WHICH AWARDED HIM ITS HIGHEST
HONOR -- KAINZ MEDALLION -- FOR DIRECTION. GRATZER ALSO KNOWN
TO POST THROUGH HIS WORK WITH ENGLISH SPEAKING THEATER IN THE
AMERIKA HAUS IN THE LATE 60'S.

GRATZER AND WALKER COMING TO THE UNITED STATES TO STUDY CURRENT
DEVELOPMENTS US THEATER. WERKSTATT IS SO MUCH BETTER THEN OTHER
AVANT GARDE THEATER IN AUSTRIA, THAT GRATZER AND WALKER ARE
WORKING IN NEAR ISLOATION AND FEEL THE NEED TO STUDY TECHNIQUE
AND SHARE DRAMATIC EXPERIENCES WITH US GROUPS.

GRATZER AND WALKER MET PAUL FOSTER, PRESIDENT OF LAMAMA, WHEN
HE WAS HERE ON AMSPEC GRANT IN THE SPRING. THEY WROTE FOSTER
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USING ADDRESS IN WHO'S WHO INFORMING HIM OF THEIR COMING BUT

HAVE RECEIVED NO REPLY. BOTH ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO SEE HIM AND ELLEN STUART AND SPEND SOME TIME STUDYING WITH THE COMPANY WHILE THEY ARE IN THE STATES. (FYI FOSTER IS REPORTED TO BE WRITING A NEW PLAY TO BE SHOWN DURING THE VIENNA FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR). IN ADDITION TO LA MAMA, VISITORS WOULD LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH OTHER SIGNIFICANT THEATER GROUPS ON THE EAST AND WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES. POST SUGGESTS AREA STAGE IN WASHINGTON, GUTHRIE THEATER IN MINNEAPOLIS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO RECOMMEND OTHER COMPANIES ON WEST COAST.

IF DEPARTMENT WILLING TO ASSIST, REQUEST ONLY DEPARTMENT FACILITATION IN INTRODUCING GRATZER AND WALKER TO LA MAMA AND OTHER THEATER COMPANIES AS REPUTABLE, RESPECTED AUSTRIAN PROFESSIONALS. THE CULTURAL OFFICE OF THE CITY OF VIENNA IS AWARE OF GRATZER AND WALKER TRAVEL AND INFORMS EMBASSY THAT IT IS IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE VISIT AND ENCOURAGES OUR COOPERATION.

GRATZER AND WALKER DEPARTING EUROPE ON ICELANDIC AIRLINES ON NOV 3 AND EXPECT TO BE IN NEW YORK DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF NOV. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CABLE APPROVAL AND NAME OF PROGRAM OFFICER THEY SHOULD CONTACT ON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.BUCHANAN

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